

# Crystalline Hills Trail

Wrangell-St.Elias National Park and Preserve

National Park Service  
US Department of the Interior



**Access:** Trailhead along McCarthy Road, Mile 34.8

**Distance:** 2.5 mile loop

**Time:** 2-3 hours

**Maps:** McCarthy 1:63,360 (B-7)

**Difficulty:** Moderate.

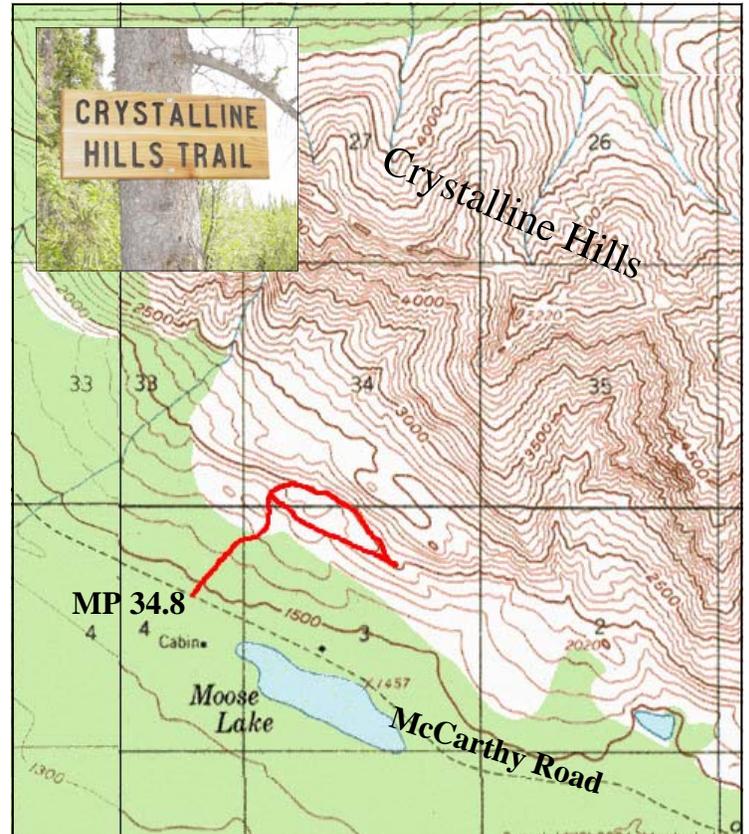
**Highlights:** Road access, beautiful views.

## Route:

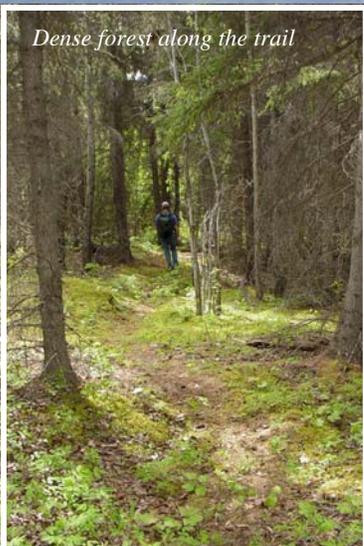
The trailhead is located along the north side of the McCarthy Road at mile 34.8. Look closely for the wooden sign. After 1/2 mile, a short side trail leads to a nice view. The main trail continues to climb gradually through the dense forest and loops back along the base of the steep Crystalline Hills. Pick a place to scramble up for outstanding views of the Chitina River valley, Moose Lake, and the Chugach Mountains.

Adventurous hikers can continue to climb higher into the Crystalline Hills for remote camping and exploring the many high ridges and rocky ledges.

**Notes:** The trail passes through shady forest and bug spray is highly recommended. The best views are achieved by scrambling up the steep slopes of the Crystalline Hills (*not necessarily along the trail*).



*Great views after a scramble*



*Dense forest along the trail*

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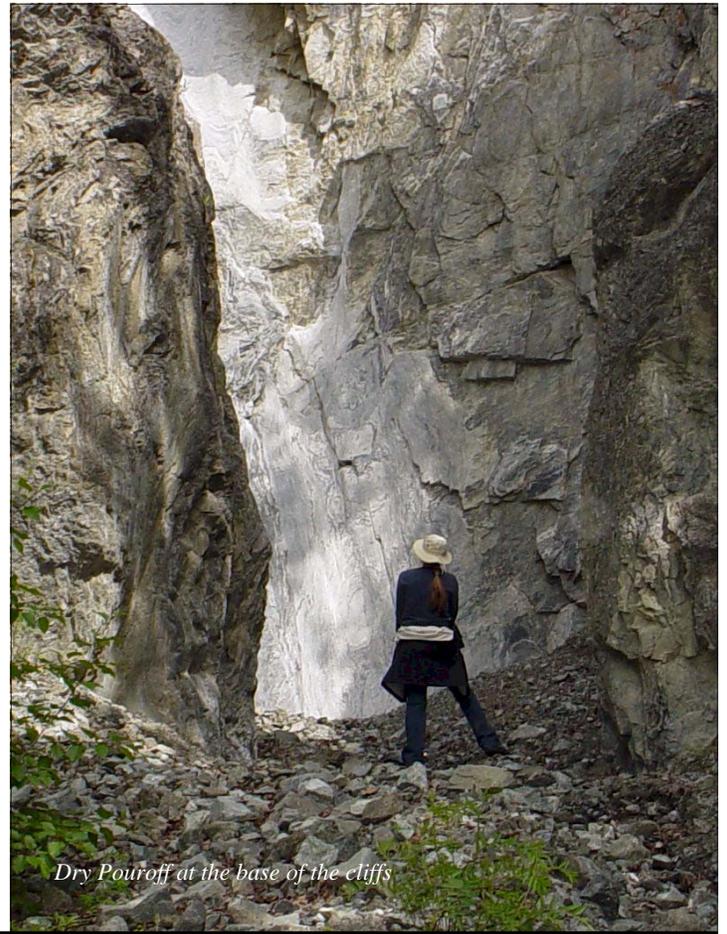
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*View of Moose Lake*



*Shady...watch for mosquitoes!*



*Dry Pour-off at the base of the cliffs*